WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTION

Raising of new military regiments

*541. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of State Governments have requested his Ministry to raise military regiments and battalions formed on the basis of recruitment made from their respective States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Such requests were received from Gujarat, Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. These requests have not been favourably considered as the present policy is not to raise any new Regiment on the basis of caste, creed, religion or region.

Lowering Trends in Hindu Population Growth

*542. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA':
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after population control drive was taken off, the Hindu population has gone down vis-a-vis other communities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the growth rates of different religious communities?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) to (c) The Census data show that the growth rate of the Hindu population has been lower than other religious communities during the decade 1951—61. Their growth rate during the susbsequent decades 1961—71, 1971—81 and 1981—91 has been again lower than some of the religious communities, while it has been higher in comparision to some other religious communities. Population of various religious communities as per 1951, 1961, 1971, 1981, and 1991 censuses, along with percentage decadal growth rates and their proportions to total population, is given in the annexure. (*See* Appendix 180 Annexure No. 84)

गुजरात में जल-भूतल परिवहन संबंधी परियोजनाओं हेतु ऋण

*543. **श्री चीमन भाई हरी भाई शुक्ल:** क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) गुजरात में जल-भूतल परिवहन के विकास हेतु इस समय कौन-कौन सी परियोजनाएं निर्माणाधीन हैं;

(ख) क्या इन परियोजनाओं के निर्माणार्थ विदेशी तथा भारतीय निजी वित्तीय संस्थाओं द्वारा ऋण स्वीकृत किए गए हैं;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इन परियोजनाओं के नाम क्या हैं और विदेशी संस्थाओं द्वारा परियोजना-वार कितनी धनराशि स्वीकृत की गई; और

(घ) उक्त ऋण राशि का उपयोग न किए जाने के परिणामस्वरूप वर्ष 1995-96 के दौरान 31 दिसम्बर, 1996 तक सरकार द्वारा वचनबद्धता शुल्क के रूप में इन विदेशी संस्थाओं को कितनी राशि का भुगतान किया गया?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री (श्री टी॰जी॰ वेंकटरामन): (क) और (ख) संवैधानिक रूप से भारत सरकार राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों और महापत्तनों के विकास के लिए जिम्मेदार है। राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों से भिन्न सभी सड़कों और महापत्तनों से भिन्न पत्तनों के लिए अनिवार्यतः संबंधित राज्य सरकारें जिम्मेदार हैं।

इस समय गुजरात में सरकार के बजटगत संसाधनों से 337 करोड़ रु॰ लागत की 119 राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग परियोजनाएं कार्यान्वित की जा रही हैं। इन परियोजनाओं का वित्त पोषण विदेशी अथवा भारतीय गैर सरकारी वित्तीय संस्थाओं के ऋणों से नहीं किया जाता है।

पत्तन क्षेत्र में कांडला महापत्तन पर निम्नलिखित तीन मुख्य परियोजनाएं निर्माणाधीन हैं। इन परियोजनाओं का

वित्त पोषण विदेशी अथवा भारतीय गैर सरकारी वित्तीय संस्थाओं के ऋणों से नहीं किया जाता है।

(i) तीसरी तेल जैटी का निर्माण - अनुमानित लागत 29.90 करोड़ रु०।

(ii) 8वीं सामान्य कार्गो बर्थ का निर्माण - अनुमानित लागत 38.82 करोड़ रु०।

(iii) चौथी तेल जैटी का निर्माण - अनुमानित लागत 25.12 करोड़ रु०।

(ग) और (घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Non-Issuance of Electricity Bills by NDMC

*544. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NDMC has not been issuing Electricity Bills for the last one year; and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Bills were issued to some consumers in the month of January, 1997, charging highly disproportionate amounts of money;

(c) if so, whether the excess amount is proposed to be adjusted immediately or in instalments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) to (d) The electricity bills were being regularly issued by NDMC upto September, 1996. However, he Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) toward the end of September, 1996 detected misappropriation of municipal revenue allegedly on the part of a private computer firm which had been engaged by the NDMC for the purpose of preparing electricity bills and collecting the charges from the consumers. This led to seizure of all the relevant records and the sealing of the computer system by the CBI, because of which the regular electricity bills could not be issued from Octoebr, 1996 onwards. The NDMC initially made efforts to issue the electricity bills manually to the bulk consumers, etc. but due to certain technical reasons, data stored in the computers could not be retrieved as a result of which the arrears outstanding against the consumers could not be ascertained. Subsequently, NDMC set up its own computer system and the electricity bills were sent to the consumers in a phased manner. Since the bills so issued covered a period of 4-5 months, the amounts reflected were for obvious reasons higher than the normal monthly billing, but the consumers were allowed to make the payment in instalments wherever such requests were received. The bills, however, continue to be raised on provisional basis without reflecting the areais prior to September, 1996 as the exact amount of such arrears cannot be verified till the entire data from old computer system is retrieved. Besides, the software fed into new computer system is based on a large number of parameters and there are chances that some errors might occur in the initialy phase till the system stabilises.

मध्य प्रदेश में भूमिगत जल-स्तर में गिरावट आना

*545. **श्री राधाकिशन मालवीय:**
श्री गोविन्दराम मिरी:

क्या **ग्रामीण क्षेत्र और रोजगार** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या मध्य प्रदेश के पठारी क्षेत्र में भूमिगत जल-स्तर निरन्तर गिरता जा रहा है जिसकी वजह से ग्रामों में स्थापित कई हैण्डपम्प निष्क्रिय हो गये हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो ऐसे क्षेत्रों में पेय-जल व्यवस्था बनाये रखने के लिए तथा भूमिगत-जल-स्तर को गिरने से रोकने के लिये सरकार क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है;

(ग) क्या मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने प्रभावित जिलों के भूमिगत जल-स्तर को ऊपर उठाने संबंधी योजनाएं ग्रामीण क्षेत्र और रोजगार मंत्रालय को भेजी थी; और

(घ) क्या ग्रामीण क्षेत्र और रोजगार मंत्रालय